

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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R 171431Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8618

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBSSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHIN GEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A TEL AVIV 6608

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SY, IS

SUBJECT: DEATH OF SYRIAN SHEPHERDS ON GOLAN

REFS:(A) TEL AVIV 6551; (B) DAO DAMASCUS 364 DTG 151431Z OCT 75

1. CONCERNING THE IDF SPOKESMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF OCTOBER 14 REGARDING SYRIAN SHEPHERDS WHO WERE KILLED BY IDF (REF A), AARMA AGAIN ASKED IDF CHIEF OF EXTERNAL RELATIONS FOR CLARIFICATION. HE INDICATED THAT IN THE AREA OF 3312N 3549E, WHERE THE IDF FENCE IS ABOUT 600 METERS WEST OF THE BLUE LINE, THE IDF PATROL HAD SEEN A NUMBER OF SHEPHERDS WITH CATTLE AND SHEEP NEAR THE IDF FENCE. THE PATROL CONTINUED TO SHOUT AT THE SHEPHERDS TO LEAVE THE AREA, BUT THE LATTER DID NOT RESPOND. AFTER THAT, THE PATROL FIRED WARNING SHOTS IN THE AIR AND THEN WARNING SHOTS IN THEIR DIRECTION. TWO PEOPLE WERE KILLED, A MALE AND A FEMALE. EVENT TOOK PLACE BETWEEN 1100 AND 1400. A UN VEHICLE CAME ABOUT 1400 AND PICKED UP THE TWO PEOPLE.

2. ACCORDING TO CHIEF OF EXTERNAL RELATIONS, THESE SHEPHERDS
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WERE INDEED SHEPHERDS, NOT FARMERS, AND WERE PRESENT IN AN

UNAUTHORIZED AREA. HE SAID FURTHER THAT THE SHOTS THAT KILLED THEM WERE NOT AIMED SHOTS, BECAUSE IF THIS HAD BEEN THE CASE, NONE OF THE SHEPHERDS WOULD HAVE GOTTEN AWAY UNINJURED.

3. COMPARISON OF HEBREW AND ENGLISH LANGUAGE VERSIONS OF SPOKESMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT SHOWS THAT FORMER EMPLOYED TERM "PENETRATED" AND LATTER "INFILTRATED" IN DESCRIBING SHEPHERDS'S PRESENCE IN UNAUTHORIZED AREA.

4. ARMA HAS BEEN TOLD BY A HIGHLY RELIABLE SOURCE THAT PATROL LEADER ACTED ACCORDING TO VERY STRICT INTERPRETATION OF HIS ORDERS. HOWEVER, YESTERDAY (OCT 16) ACCORDING TO SOURCE, RULES OF ENGAGEMENT WERE CHANGED AND IN EFFECT IF THE SAME TYPE OF INCIDENT OCCURS IN THE FUTURE THE NEW RULES OF ENGAGEMENT WOULD SEVERELY RESTRICT THE USE OF ARMS AGAINST TRESPASSERS.

5. COMMENT: THESE DETAILS DO NOT CHANGE THE ISRAELI VERSION AS PRESENTED IN THE IDF SPOKESMAN'S PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT. IF INFORMATION PARA 4 IS CORRECT, IT WOULD SEEM THAT IDF IS MAKING AN EFFORT TO KEEP LEVEL OF TENSION DOWN BY TRYING TO PREVENT RECURRENCE OF SIMILAR INCIDENTS.
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